

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of January 29 - February 3, 2007**

1. Please Attend!! - Public Workshops on Gym: Saturday, February 10 and Sunday, February 11 are the dates set for two identical free community workshops regarding the proposed gymnasium addition to the Takoma Park Community Center. The workshops will be held from 2:30 - 4:30pm. The Saturday workshop will be at Grace United Methodist Church on New Hampshire Avenue and the Sunday workshop will be at the Takoma Park Community Center. The Sunday session will include a track in Spanish. Information on this important event will be mailed to each household in Takoma Park. We want to know what you think! For information as it becomes available, check the City's web site at www.takomaparkmd.gov. (Community & Government Liaison)

2. The Special Election: Reuben Snipper was elected in the January 30 special election to fill the Ward 5 City Council vacancy. The new Councilmember will be sworn in by Mayor Porter on February 12. The special election was the first held since the City Charter was amended to incorporate instant runoff voting in City elections. Voters had the opportunity to rank the candidates in order of preference. Mr. Snipper received a majority of the voters' top choices; consequently, no additional rounds of counting were necessary. Full election results are posted at: <http://takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/election/07-ward5/results.pdf>. Staff will be reviewing election procedures and lessons learned from the special election to prepare for the regular election to be held in November 2007. (City Clerk)

3. On Air: City TV aired the election results announcement live on Tuesday, January 31, 2007. (City TV)

4. Discussions on Old Town: On January 29, 2007, Mayor Porter, City Manager Barb Matthews, Capt. Coursey, and Ms. Roz Grigsby of the OTBA met to discuss long term strategies and concerns relating to crime issues in and around Old Takoma. (Police)

5. Officers in Training: On January 31, 2007, Sgts. Skibicki and Frishkorn, Cpl. Largent, and PFC Atwell attended Traffic Stops & K-9 Units Investigative Continuum training sponsored by The Local Governments Insurance Trust in Columbia, MD. Also, on this date, Gretchen Hilburger, Kevetta Wilson, Carolyn Pinkard and Christopher Walker attended Customer Service training. Lt. Cipperly and Sgt. Gilbert attended a Multi-Jurisdictional Pedestrian Safety Committee, which Mary Kendall and Gretchen Hilburger also attended, and conducted a presentation relating to the two previous Pedestrian Safety Initiatives that were conducted in the CSAFE area that included a video presentation from the Takoma Park Snap Shots. (Police)

6. More Officers in Training: On 02/01/07, The following personnel attended CPR training conducted by the Takoma Park Fire Department; Denise Pullett, Carolyn Pinkard, Linda Fisher, Jarvalin Cooper, Christopher Walker, Demetrice White, Joan Allen, Roz Thompkins Bernice Toler and Liz James. From February 1 to February 2, 2007, Lt. Collington and D/Cpl. Cannatella attended Rape and Sexual Assault Investigations Training conducted at the Montgomery County Park Police Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD. Also on February 1, 2007, the Department submitted its 2006 training and firearms report to the Maryland Police Training Commission. In addition to mandated firearms training, agency officers attended 1428 hours of training in calendar

year 2006, that was considered eligible for MPCTC in-service credit. Eighteen hours a year per officer is the mandated level (total of 684 for 38 officers). (Police)

7. Intervention Program: On February 2, 2007, Capt. Coursey met with Dudley Warner of the Montgomery County Dept. of Health and Human Services to discuss City police participation with the Public Inebriation Program being run by that Department, to service the portions of the Silver Spring District including Takoma Park. The program is aimed towards intensifying intervention programs for people found in public in an intoxicated state. The program is expected to be up and running within a few months. (Police)

8. Traffic Enforcement (Wards 4, 5 and 6): Officers conducted at least 147 traffic stops this week, 119 of which ended in written citations and 2 vehicle impounds. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire and Flower Avenues, and University Boulevard. (Police)

9. Erie/Flower Commercial Area Master Plan Workshop (Ward 5): The first Workshop to review the Master Plan and identify small scale improvements will be held February 22nd in the Columbia Room of Wilkinson Hall at Columbia Union College. Neighborhood residents, businesses and other area stakeholders are invited. The workshop will review the vision and recommendations of the 2000 Master Plan for the Erie/Flower Avenue Commercial area and work with participants to identify and prioritize small scale projects for the neighborhood commercial area. For more information please contact Ilona Blanchard, Senior Planner, at (301) 891-7205. (Housing and Community Development)

10. Green Building Conference (City-wide): The Housing and Community Development is offering a Go Green at Home - Takoma Park Green Building Conference for homeowners and contractors to learn and share information about green building. The conference will be on February 18th from 11 AM to 5 PM. John Spears of Sustainable Design Group, Inc. will be the keynote speaker at 11 AM. There are over twenty additional speakers to choose from and many more topics on subjects ranging from landscaping to finishes. Registration is \$5, with an optional \$10 for lunch (only for registration prior to Feb. 12) through the Recreation Department. For more information, go to "Upcoming Events" at www.takomaparkmd.gov or call Ilona Blanchard at (301) 891-7205. (Housing and Community Development)

11. Opening Reception - February 9 (City-wide): Join the Arts and Humanities Commission as it celebrates the work of local artist Ann Riley on Friday, February 9, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Community Center. Joining the artist will be local musicians playing a range of traditional Celtic, bluegrass, and old-time pieces. Ms. Riley's paintings reflect a life-long passion for animals and nature, and a deep appreciation of the ordinary objects that surround us. The exhibit can be viewed in the Atrium and Richard Dempsey Memorial Galleries throughout the month of February. (Housing and Community Development)

12. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 5): Tenants residing at 8204 and 8206 Houston Court (5 units each) were notified on January 29th that their rental properties are being sold. The tenants (jointly) have 14 days to express an interest in the purchase or an additional 7 days, if responding individually. The Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

sent letters to all the tenants, asking them to call the City should they want to explore the process to purchase the properties. (Housing and Community Development)

13. City Website: After many hours of collaborative effort between the City's Information Systems staff and vendors, the issues we have been having with the Granicus webstreaming are fixed, and the system is fully functional again. (City TV)

14. Code Enforcement Inspector (City-wide): HCD is pleased to welcome Mr. Eddie Latham to its Code Enforcement staff. Mr. Latham will be responsible for general property maintenance complaints and will be monitoring conditions in select neighborhoods throughout the community. (Housing and Community Development)

15. Family Movie Night: On Friday, January 19, the Recreation Department held a Family Movie Night. We had about 15 folks who came to watch "Over the Hedge" while snacking on popcorn and juice. The next movie night is scheduled for February 16 at 7:00pm in the Community Center and is featuring "Princess Diaries." (Recreation)

16. Indoor and Outdoor Trips: On Saturday, January 27, the Takoma Park Recreation Department took 11 people snow tubing for a Family Day Trip to Ski Liberty's Boulder Ridge. A good time was had by all and they are looking forward to our next trip, indoor rock climbing at Earth Treks in Rockville. (Recreation)

17. Afternoon Olympics: The Afternoon Addition finished its Afternoon Olympics. There were three teams that competed throughout the competition. The contestants competed in several areas: capture the flag, reading, spelling, word search, relay games, bowling, trivia, musical chairs, tug of war, food challenge, and much more. Each team was a winner for their good sportsmanship. (Recreation)